



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

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News Release

"GIFTS FOR GUNS" SUCCESS

Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca kicked off the 2010 New Year early by hosting a final "Gifts for Guns" event on December 29th in the City of Compton. The last-minute push to get unwanted and potential crime guns off the street was a great success, with **278** guns surrendered. This final event brings the 2009 Countywide total of surrendered firearms to 5,337. This year the "Gifts for Guns" program yielded 2,508 handguns; 1,917 rifles; 768 shotguns; and 144 assault weapons, all received at various Los Angeles County Sheriff's station venues.

In 2005, Sheriff Baca and his staff took the lead on searching for innovative ways to remove guns from would-be, violent offenders. The "Gifts for Guns" program was developed to provide a unique opportunity for area residents to safely surrender any firearm, anonymously and without questions, to Sheriff's personnel, in exchange for a \$100 gift card for any handgun or rifle, or a \$200 gift card for an assault weapon. Recently, the program has been successfully emulated by law enforcement agencies across the United States, several of which have consulted with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on how to safely and effectively conduct a gun surrender operation. Last year, the Sheriff's Department collected more than 3,000 guns, which were later destroyed. Just as those guns were destroyed, the guns collected in 2009 will have no chance of falling into the hands of criminals, making all of our communities a safer place.

For questions or information, contact Steve Whitmore, Senior Media Advisor, at 323-573-2387, or Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau at 323-267-4800.